

RENCH Olympic gold medalists Teddy Riner and Marie-Jose Perec teamed to light the cauldron for the Paris Olympics to end an elaborate but rain-soaked Opening Ceremony on Friday night.

The duo both tilted their own torch toward the cauldron, which quickly became alit in flames. Celine Dion followed with a rendition of Edith Piaf's "Hymne à l'amour" ("Hymn to Love").

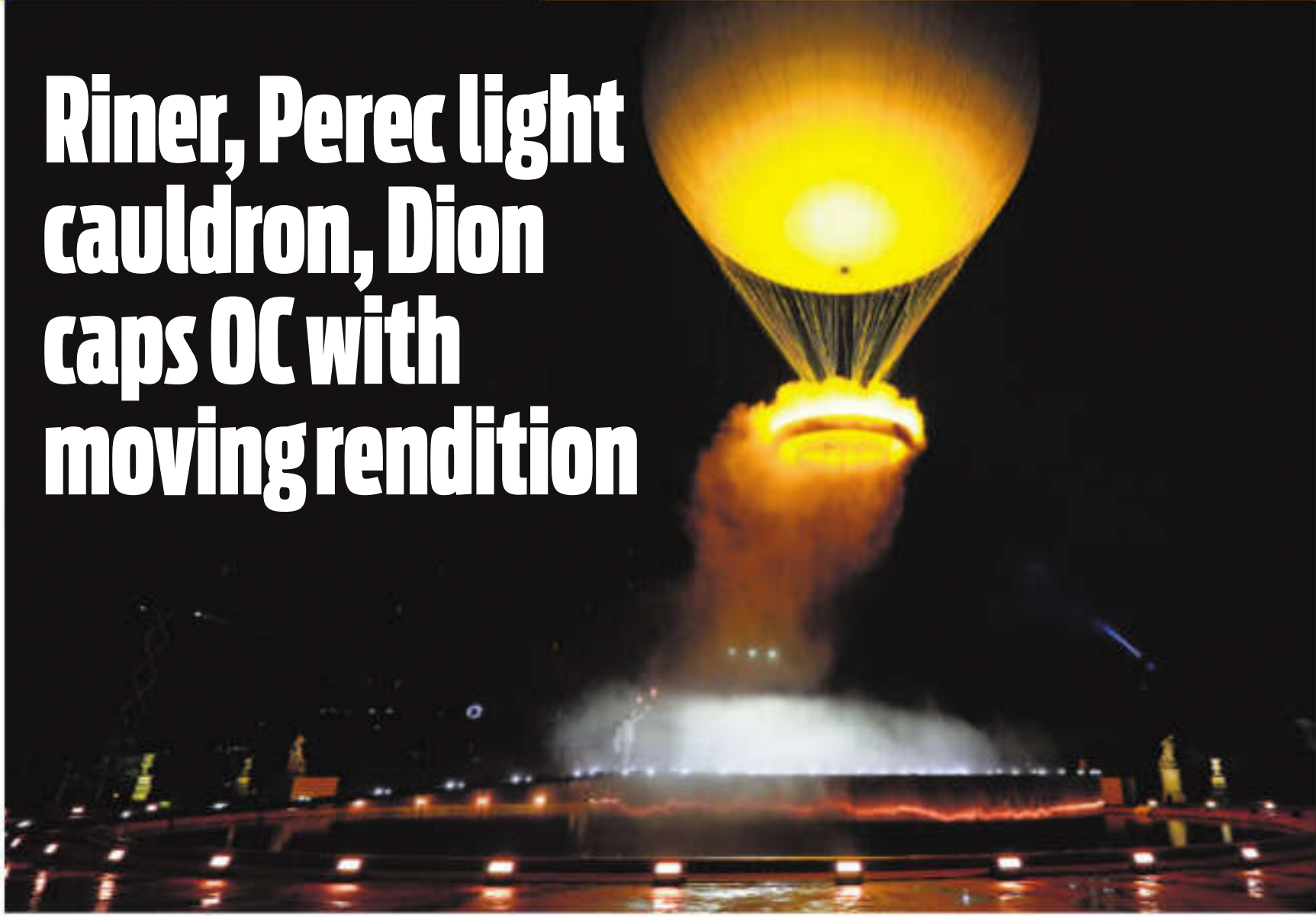
Riner won three golds in judo and Perec won three in athletics, becoming the first sprinter to win consecutive golds in the 400-metre dash. The lighting of the cauldron capped an extravagant four-hour ceremony that concluded with a relay of the flame that included many Olympic greats — from France, of course, but also other countries.

Rafael Nadal of Spain and Americans Serena Williams and Carl Lewis were among them. Zinedine Zidane, who kick-started the OC when the show began, handed over the torch to Nadal in a jaw-dropping moment to kick-start the last hour. The identity of who would light the cauldron was a closely kept secret until Riner and Perec learned hours before the ceremony that they had been chosen.

Their identities were revealed to the rest of the world only when Charles Coste, the oldest living French Olympic champion at 100 years old, lit both their torches. Tony Estanguet, the Paris Games chief organizer, said only he knew the identity of "the personality or athlete" he had chosen and he deliberately withheld the information so the secret would not be leaked.

Recent cauldron lighters have ranged from current stars, retired greats and even political figures, and some Games have featured groups of people sharing the honour together. Notables from recent Olympics were tennis player

Riner, Perec light cauldron, Dion caps OC with moving rendition



(Clockwise) Teddy Riner & Marie-Jose Perec watch as the cauldron rises in a balloon. Football legend Zinedine Zidane (L) with Spain's Rafael Nadal (R), who carries the Olympic flame. Canadian singer Celine Dion performs at the Eiffel Tower. An overview of the Trocadero venue | AP/AFP

Naomi Osaka (Tokyo Games), figure skater Yuna Kim (Pyeongchang Games), marathon runner Vanderlei Cordeiro de Lima (Rio de Janeiro Games), ice hockey player Vladislav Tretiak (Sochi Games), a group of seven teenagers chosen

by veteran British Olympians (London Games) and ice hockey great Wayne Gretzky alongside basketball player Steve Nash (Vancouver Games). The cauldron was a ring of flames 7 metres (about 23 feet) in diameter, topped by a 30-metre high (about 100 feet) and 22-metre wide (about 72 feet) hot-air balloon. The design was a tribute to the first flight in a hydrogen-filled gas balloon, made by two French inventors in 1783 from the Tuileries Garden. AP



India captain Suryakumar Yadav celebrates his fifty in the first T20I against Sri Lanka in Pallekele on Saturday. He scored 58 runs from 26 balls | AP

Skipper SKY shows the way for India

PALLEKELE: Captain Suryakumar Yadav led from the front with a 26-ball 58 as India beat Sri Lanka by 43 runs in the first T20I on Saturday. Put into bat first, India openers — Yashasvi Jaiswal (40 off 21) and Shubman Gill (34 runs from 16 balls) — started off with a flying start. Once they fell, Yadav took charge and kept the innings going as India posted 213/7. In reply, Sri Lanka could only manage 170. Brief scores: India 213/7 in 20 ovs (Jaiswal 40, Yadav 58, Pant 49; Theekshana 4/34) bt Sri Lanka 170 all out in 19.2 ovs (Nissanka 79, Kusal 45; Parag 3/5).

CAN INDIA WIN THEIR EIGHTH ASIAN TITLE?

In a repeat of the previous Asia Cup final, India and Sri Lanka face each other in the final at Dambulla on Sunday. A look...

ASIA CUP FINAL: Sri Lanka vs India, 3 PM Live on Star Sports and Hotstar

The clash of undefeated sides

The defending champions and hosts have remained unbeaten throughout the Asia Cup so far. While India were dominant throughout their run, Sri Lanka overcame spirited Pakistan in the semifinals to continue their winning streak. However, there can only be one winner today. Will it be the eighth title for India or the maiden one for Sri Lanka?

India's bowlers vs Lanka's batting

India's bowlers have been exceptionally good in the tournament with the highest they have conceded so far being 123 against UAE and they won the match by 78 runs. On the other hand, Sri Lanka's batters have come a long way and are not necessarily dependent on their captain Chamari Athapaththu.

XPLAINER

Tackling unemployment head on

UMA KANNAN @ Bengaluru

FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her recent General Budget speech announced a slew of initiatives for the young population on skilling and internship opportunities in top companies so as to tackle unemployment challenges. The package on employment and skilling she promised to rollout is worth ₹2 lakh crore. Of the five schemes related to jobs and skilling, three were Employment-Linked Incentives for the private sector. While Sitharaman gave a brief outline of the new schemes, their nuts and bolts would be announced later. The schemes are a recognition of the need to keep the youth invested in the country's growth story.



Employment Linked Incentive

● Scheme A: This is for first-timers and is applicable to all those who enter the workforce newly with less than ₹1 lakh salary per month. This scheme will be for two years (enrolment), and will cover about 1 crore people every year. With an outlay of ₹23,000 crore over three years, this scheme is projected to benefit 210 lakh employees. The government will offer first timers a direct subsidy, which will be one month's wage with a cap of ₹15,000. The subsidy will be paid in three instalments.

● Scheme B: This is for job creation in manufacturing to incentivise additional employment in the sector. It is expected to benefit 30 lakh youth entering employment, and their employers. Corporate and non-corporate entities with a three-year track record of EPFO contribution will be eligible for this scheme. With an outlay of ₹52,000 crore over six years, an incentive will be provided under this scheme at a specified scale direct to the employee and the employer with respect to their EPFO contribution in the first four years of employment. If the employment ends within one year of recruitment, the employer would have to refund the subsidy.

● Scheme C: The third scheme provides support to employers. It covers all additional employment within a salary of ₹1 lakh per month across all sectors. New employees under this scheme need not be new entrants to EPFO. For two years, the government will reimburse EPFO employer contribution, which is up to ₹3,000 per month to the employer for the additional employees hired in the previous year. With an outlay of ₹32,000 crore, the scheme targets 50 lakh beneficiaries.



Southern Railway E-auction for Commercial assets pertaining to Palakkad Division. For and on behalf of the President of India, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Palakkad Division, Southern Railway, invites bids through E-auction for Vehicle Parking Contracts at 4 stations (Tanur, Kallayi-G, Manjeshwar and Kalpathy) for a period of 3 years and 3 stations (Mahe, Shoranur and Tirur 2nd entry CLT side) for a period of 1 year pertaining to Palakkad Division.

Southern Railway Electrical (General), Construction, Chennai Egmore Tender Notice No. E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT-7-2024-25. Dated: 26.07.2024. For and on behalf of the President of India, The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / General / Construction / Southern Railway / Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites E-Tender for the following Work.

HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED. Registered Office: Radhika, 2nd Floor, Law Garden Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-09. Branch Office: HDB Financial Services Ltd, 2nd Floor, La-Grace Building, Above Axis Bank, Near IQRAA Hospital, Wayanad Road, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kerala-673009.

AUCTION SALE NOTICE CUM E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE (To the Borrower / Co-Applicant / Public in General) (Under Rule 8(6) R/w with Rule 9 (1) of SARFAESI Act, 2002). The undersigned Authorized Officer of HDB Financial Services Ltd, has taken over Possession of the following property, under Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, for the below mentioned loan account with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS & AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".

Details of Encumbrances, if any, known to the Secured Creditor:- Nil. Details of Immovable Properties: ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF LAND HAVING AN EXTENT OF 11.52 ACRES OF PROPERTY IN RY SURVEY NOS.285/210,214,1A,1B TOGETHER WITH BUILDING/BUILDING ASSESSMENT BEARING NO.1/668 SITUATED AT KUNNAMANGALAM PANCHAYATH KUNNAMANGALAM VILLAGE, KUNNAMANGALAM DESOM, KOZHIKODE TALUK, KOZHIKODE DISTRICT, AS PER SALE DEED NOS 2158/2016 AND 1474/2014 OF CHATHAMANGALAM S.R.O, KOZHIKODE DISTRICT AND AS PER THE LOCATION CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY VILLAGE OFFICER KUNNAMANGALAM, IN THE NAME OF ANIL KUMAR AND BEENA ANIL KUMAR IS BOUNDED BY EAST - PROPERTY OF MOSQUE, WEST - PROPERTY OF ASHRAF, SOUTH - PROPERTY OF KOYA, NORTH - ROAD.